

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MC-02 ACDA-07 SCA-01  
SCS-03 EB-07 TRSE-00 COME-00 SY-05 CAB-02 DOTE-00  
EPG-02 FAA-00 /101 W  
-----110387 281251Z /44

P R 272022Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3069

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: MARR, GT, AR, BB

SUBJ: AIRCRAFT CARRYING AMMUNITION TO GUATEMALA DETAINED IN  
BARBADOS

1. ON  
25 JUNE & OB AUTHORITIES SEIZED AN ARGENTINE-REGISTERED,  
CARGO CONFIGURED, BRITANNIA-TYPE AIRCRAFT ALLEGEDLY TRANSPORTING  
"ARMS AND AMMUNITION" FROM THE UK TO GUATEMALA.

2. A STATEMENT FROM THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE PUBLISHED 26  
JUNE READS: "A SHIPMENT OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION BOUND FOR GUATE-  
MALA WAS SEIZED AT THE GRANTLEY ADAMS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
EARLY TODAY.

"THE SHIPMENT ARRIVED IN BARBADOS ABOARD A BRITANNIA FREIGHTER  
AIRCRAFT OF ARGENTINIAN REGISTRATION WHICH FLEW INTO THE AIRPORT  
FROM BRITAIN VIA LISBON AND THE CANARY ISLANDS.

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"ALERT IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS OFFICIALS, NOT SATISFIED WITH  
THE REPLIES TO THEIR ROUTINE QUERIES CONCERNING CARGO, IN-  
SPECTED SOME OF THE ITEMS AND DISCOVERED IN THE FIRST CASE  
OPENED A QUANTITY OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION.

"SEVEN PERSONS, INCLUDING FIVE MEMBERS OF THE AIRCRAFT'S  
CREW ALONG WITH A 15-YEAR OLD BOY AND ANOTHER MALE PASSENGER,

WERE CONSEQUENTLY DETAINED IN CONNECTION WITH OFFENCES AGAINST THE CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

"A TOTAL OF 26,100 KILOS OF ARMS WAS SEIZED BY THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES AND THE BRITANNIA AIRCRAFT WAS ALSO DETAINED.

"IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DESTINATION OF THE MILITARY SUPPLIES WAS CONFIRMED BY THE PLANE'S CARGO MANIFEST.

"GUATEMALA RECENTLY STATED THAT ITS MILITARY DIVISIONS WERE COMMITTED TO AN INVASION OF BELIZE IF BRITAIN "UNILATERALLY" GRANTED INDEPENDENCE TO THAT CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY."

3. PRESS REPORTS TODAY (27 JUNE) QUOTE SENIOR POLICE OFFICIALS SAYING THE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES BUT THAT THE CREW IS NOT UNDER ARREST.

4. AIRCRAFT CARRIES MARKINGS "TRANSPORTE AEREO RIO PLATEUSE."

5. A CUBAN-BORN US CITIZEN, JORGE ALBERTO PEDRAZA, CONTACTED THE EMBASSY A.M. OF 27 JUNE TO REQUEST OUR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING APPOINTMENT TO SEE MIN EX AFF FORDE. PEDRAZA SAID HE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE THAT "PROTOCOL" REQUIRED OUR INVOLVEMENT. EMBASSY DECLINED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PEDRAZA'S REQUEST AND IT IS NOT YET KNOWN IF HE SAW FORDE. PEDRAZA IS MIAMI-BASED SALES MANAGER FOR "TAR" AND "AER", BOTH ARGENTINE AIR CARGO CARRIERS. HE SAID DETAINED PLANE CARRIED ONLY AMMUNITION, NO ARMS.  
SIMMS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009